

Aerial Lifts

Aerial lifts can be used to accomplish numerous unique duties performed in hard to reach aerial spaces. Many of the tasks associated with this type of jack include performing routine maintenance on buildings with elevated ceilings, repairing telephone and power cables, lifting heavy shelving units, and pruning tree branches. A ladder could also be used for many of the aforementioned jobs, although aerial platform lifts provide more safety and stability when properly used.

There are a lot of versions of aerial hoists available on the market depending on what the task required involves. Painters often use scissor aerial jacks for instance, which are classified as mobile scaffolding, handy in painting trim and reaching the 2nd story and higher on buildings. The scissor aerial platform lifts use criss-cross braces to stretch out and extend upwards. There is a table attached to the top of the braces that rises simultaneously as the criss-cross braces lift.

Cherry pickers and bucket lift trucks are a different type of the aerial lift. Typically, they possess a bucket at the end of a long arm and as the arm unfolds, the attached bucket platform rises. Forklifts use a pronged arm that rises upwards as the handle is moved. Boom hoists have a hydraulic arm which extends outward and raises the platform. Every one of these aerial hoists call for special training to operate.

Training courses offered through Occupational Safety & Health Association, acknowledged also as OSHA, embrace safety procedures, system operation, upkeep and inspection and device load capacities. Successful completion of these training courses earns a special certified certificate. Only properly licensed people who have OSHA operating licenses should drive aerial lifts. The Occupational Safety & Health Organization has established rules to uphold safety and prevent injury when using aerial lift trucks. Common sense rules such as not using this apparatus to give rides and making sure all tires on aerial hoists are braced so as to hinder machine tipping are observed within the guidelines.

Sadly, figures show that in excess of 20 operators die each year while working with aerial platform lifts and 8% of those are commercial painters. The majority of these incidents are due to improper tire bracing and the hoist falling over; therefore a lot of of these deaths had been preventable. Operators should ensure that all wheels are locked and braces as a critical security precaution to stop the device from toppling over.

Marking the neighbouring area with obvious markers need to be used to safeguard would-be passers-by so that they do not come near the lift. Also, markings should be set at about 10 feet of clearance amid any electric lines and the aerial lift. Hoist operators should at all times be appropriately harnessed to the hoist while up in the air.